IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of a mixture ~~of~~ comprising mesitylene and durene, said process comprising: ~~which comprises~~

treating pseudo-cumene with a catalytic composition ~~containing a zeolite characterized by a spaciousness index equal to or greater than 3, in acid or prevalently acid form~~ at a temperature ranging from 210 to 450°C and a pressure ranging from 1 to 50 bar to obtain said mixture comprising mesitylene and durene,

wherein said catalytic composition comprises a zeolite,

wherein said zeolite has a spaciousness index equal to or greater than 3,

wherein said zeolite is in acid or prevalently acid form, and

wherein said catalytic composition is not impregnated with one or more metals used for hydrogenation reactions.

Claim 2 (Currently7 Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein ~~the catalyst contains a~~ said zeolite ~~characterized by~~ has a spaciousness index equal to or greater than 5.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said zeolite is at least one selected from the group consisting of beta zeolite, Y zeolite, ZSM-12 zeolite, MCM-22 zeolite, ERB-1, mazzite, mordenite, ZSM-20, L zeolite, ERS-10, Nu-1, Nu-88, offretite, and mixtures thereof. ~~and offretite.~~

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 3, wherein ~~the~~ said zeolite is a beta zeolite.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process according to any of the previous claims, wherein ~~the~~ said catalytic composition ~~contains the zeolite in the form bound with a~~ further comprises at least one binder selected from the group consisting of alumina, silica, magnesia, zirconia, and mixtures thereof. ~~or their mixtures~~.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 5, wherein ~~the~~ said zeolite is beta zeolite and ~~the~~ said catalytic composition ~~is characterized by~~ has an extrazeolitic porosity consisting for a fraction of at least 25% of pores with a radius higher than 100 Å.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 6, wherein ~~the~~ said catalytic composition ~~is characterized by~~ has a total volume of extrazeolitic pores greater than or equal to 0.80 ml/g.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said zeolite ~~is characterized by~~ has a molar ratio SiO_2/Al_2O_3 ranging from 4.5 to 4,000.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 8, wherein ~~the~~ said molar ratio SiO_2/Al_2O_3 ranges from 4.5 to 400.

Claim 10 (Original): The process according to claim 1, wherein the temperature ranges from 225 to 400°C and the pressure ranges from 5 to 50 bar.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein said process is carried out in liquid phase.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, ~~wherein the~~ having a WHSV space velocity ~~ranges~~ of from 0.1 to 20 $hours^{-1}$.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein said process is carried out ~~in continuous~~ continuously in a fixed bed reactor.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 5, wherein the weight ratio between said zeolite and said binder ranges from 5:95 to 95:5.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 14, wherein ~~the~~ said weight ratio ranges from 20:80 to 80:20.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein the process temperature is gradually increased and when ~~the catalyst~~ said catalytic composition shows at least partial deactivation, ~~it~~ said catalytic composition is cyclically subjected to a rejuvenation process by increasing the temperature by at least 40°C for a time ranging from 100 to 300 hours, and subsequently re-establishing the temperature conditions prior to the rejuvenation ~~are subsequently re-established~~.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, further comprising: ~~which comprises the following steps~~

~~a) treating pseudo-cumene with a catalyst containing a zeolite in acid form, characterized by a spaciousness index equal to or greater than 3, at a temperature ranging from 210 to 450°C and a pressure ranging from 1 to 50 bar to give a mixture containing mesitylene and durene;~~

~~b) subjecting the~~ distilling said mixture ~~resulting from step (a) to distillation~~ to separate a first fraction ~~containing~~ comprising ~~xylenes~~ xylene, a second fraction ~~containing~~ comprising non-converted pseudo-cumene, mesitylene and hemimellitene, a third fraction ~~containing~~ comprising durene, isodurene and prenitene, and a residue;

[[c)]] recovering ~~the~~ said mesitylene from ~~the~~ said second fraction by ~~means of~~ distillation and recovering ~~the~~ said durene from ~~the~~ said third fraction by ~~means of~~ crystallization.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 17, wherein ~~in step (c) the~~ said crystallization of durene from ~~the~~ said third fraction is carried out without a solvent, at a temperature ranging from -20 to 10°C.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 18, wherein ~~the~~ one or more crystals ~~deriving~~ obtained from the crystallization are purified by ~~means of washings~~ washing with one or more alcohols or one or more light hydrocarbons.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 17, wherein pseudo-cumene and hemimellitene ~~deriving~~ obtained from ~~the~~ said distillation of ~~the~~ said second fraction ~~of step (c)~~, are recycled to step (a).

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 17, wherein said third fraction comprises isodurene and prenitene, and said isodurene and prenitene remaining in ~~the~~ said third fraction after the crystallization of durene, are recycled to step (a).

Claim 22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein hydrogen is not added during said process.

Claim 24 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein said catalytic composition consists essentially of said zeolite.

Claim 25 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein said catalytic composition consists essentially of said zeolite and a binder.